

Military Information from Perleberg

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED 6 March 1953

ENGLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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On 8 February 1953, the Artillerie Kaserne in the area of Linden Strasse and Rudolf Breitscheid Strasse in Perleberg was occupied to capacity by 1,600 to 1,700 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Almost all barracks buildings were brightly lit at dusk. At 2 p.m. on 28 January, T-34/85 tank entered the installation, coming from the Wittenberge training field. Shortly thereafter, about 140 soldiers carrying light machine guns, carbines, submachine guns and three battery commander's telescopes entered the installation. At 7:40 p.m. on 30 January, six trucks

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each occupied by 25 soldiers left the installation toward Havelberg and returned at 5:30 a.m. on 31 January. On 3 February, T-34 tanks left the installation toward the Weinberg (hill). They were followed by about 110 soldiers carrying heavy machine guns, rifles and submachine guns; and truck towing a 76-mm field gun. At 1:30 p.m., 4 groups received training on 76-mm field guns in the barracks yard and 6 groups were engaged in drill at platoon level.

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On 8 February 1953, the Fliegerhorst Kaserne, 2 km west of the town and south of the road to Suesskow-Lenzen, was occupied by about 2,500 soldiers. Armored scout cars moved from the direction of the Wittenberge troop training grounds toward the barracks installation on 30 January. Two-hundred and forty soldiers carrying light machine guns, submachine guns, carbines and spades marched on the road to the barracks installation, coming from the same direction. Seven to eight groups practiced with two tanks on the landing field at about 2 p.m. Fourteen to 16 groups practiced assault with four tanks in the woods near Wittenberge on 6 February.

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On 31 January 1953, the Artillerie Kaserne was occupied to capacity. The barracks buildings were 95 percent lighted at dusk. From 1 to 23 January, 260 to 380 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets almost daily marched out of the installation between 9:30 and 10 a.m. They carried bazookas, rapid-fire rifles, submachine guns and carbines. Several groups of 12 to 14 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia and carrying reels left the installation. From 26 to 30 January, several groups of 20 soldiers with 50-mm and 82-mm mortars left the installation. On several days, trucks towing 120-mm mortars entered the installation, coming from the airfield, and, two hours later, proceeded

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET

-2-

25X1

toward the Weinberg training grounds carrying troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Trucks towing 57-mm AT guns and 76-mm field guns frequently entered the installation in the morning and returned in the afternoon. [redacted] at night of 22, 23, 25 and 26 January, each about four tanks entered the installation. [redacted] these tanks did not belong to the Barabash unit. [redacted]

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4. On 23 January, the Fliegerhorst Kaserne was occupied to capacity. Officers seen from 1 to 23 January included: Major Zachko (fnu), chief of the culture house; Lieutenant Colonel Vazilyev (fnu); Major Babenko (fnu), who [redacted] was supply officer; Colonel Ananiev (fnu), chief of staff; Captain Polechuk (fnu), supply officer of the signal unit; Lieutenant Colonel Drapachenko (fnu); Captain Shozan (fnu); Captain Shomeiko (fnu) and Major Volkov (fnu).

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1. Comment. The present information indicates no changes in the distribution of units of the 18th Mecz Div in Perleberg. [redacted] Since January 1953, the training activity increasingly shifted from the barracks installation to the training field as it did at other military posts in East Germany. All officers listed were previously reported except Captain Shozan (fnu) and Captain Shomeiko (fnu).

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